

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ADDIS 01833 221015Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-11 SP-02 PM-05 NSC-05 SS-15
/070 W

-----016563 231235Z /14

R 211224Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8131
INFO USINT HAVANA

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DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, ET, CU, PINS
SUBJ: MENGISTU TRIP TO CUBA

REF: A) HAVANA 1015; B) ADDIS ABABA 1806

1. CHAIRMAN MENGISTU LEFT ADDIS ON SCHEDULE EVENING APRIL 20 FOR HAVANA ABOARD SPECIAL ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES FLIGHT. INTERMEDIATE STOPS WERE NOT REVEALED. DEPARTURE GOT FULL CEREMONIAL TREATMENT WITH WHOLE DIP CORPS, DIRG MEMBERS, MINISTERS, ETC. PRESENT TO GET THEIR HANDS SHAKEN. CONTRARY TO VIEWS EXPRESSED BY MANY UPON HIS RECENT RETURN FROM MOSCOW THAT MENGISTU STILL LOOKED ILL, THERE WERE NO VISIBLE SIGNS OF ANYTHING WRONG. ACCOMPANYING OFFICIALS WERE EXTREMELY VAGUE ABOUT ESTIMATED DATE OF RETURN.

2. THERE IS NOTHING IN COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION TO INDICATE THAT HAVANA DISCUSSIONS WILL FOCUS ON DIRECT OR INDIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH EPLF OR GEORGE HABBASH WHO HAS CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED ERITREAN LIBERATION. ON OTHER HAND, IT IS ONLY LOGICAL THAT ERITREA WILL FIGURE PROMINENTLY IN DISCUSSIONS
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WITH CUBANS. THEIR POLICY CONCERNING MILITARY INVOLVEMENT TO PUT DOWN THE INSURRECTION THERE SEEMS LESS SURE TODAY THAN IT WAS A FEW WEEKS AGO AND CERTAINLY LESS THAN IT WAS IN CONNECTION WITH OGADEN WAR.

3. CUBAN AMBASSADOR JOSE PEREZ NOVOA AND, WE UNDERSTAND, HIS WIFE, WHO IS APPARENTLY A POLITICAL FIGURE IN HER OWN

RIGHT IN CUBA, ACCOMPANIED MENGISTU PARTY, AS DID RAUL VANDES VIVO WHO IS A LITERARY HERO HERE FOR HIS BOOK "ETHIOPIA: THE UNKNOWN REVOLUTION." ACCORDING TO GOVT'S "ETHIOPIAN HERALD," WHICH HEADLINED TRIP IN APRIL 21 ISSUE, MENGISTU'S PARTY INCLUDED (BUT IS NOT NECESSARILY LIMITED TO) LT COL TEFAYE GEBRE KIDAN, MEMBER OF THE PMAC (DIRG) STANDING COMMITTEE IN CHARGE OF DEFENSE; MAJOR ENDALE TESSEMA, MEMBER OF SAME IN CHARGE OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS; SUB-LIEUTENANT TAMRAT FERED, MEMBER OF SAME IN CHARGE OF INFORMATION AND PUBLIC RELATIONS; 2ND LT MENGISTU GEMETCHU, MEMBER OF PMAC CENTRAL COMMITTEE AND SPECIAL AIDE TO CHAIRMAN MENGISTU; LT TESSEMA BELAI, PMAC MEMBER; AND 2ND LT ESHETU ALEMA, PMAC MEMBER. ALSO ALONG ARE DR TEFERA WONDE, MINISTER OF HEALTH; DR COL FELEKE GEDLE-GIORGIS, MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS; MR (ATO) GETACHEW KIBRET, POLITICAL ADVISOR IN CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE AND PREVIOUSLY MOFA PERMSEC; AND MR TEFAY MAKONNEN, SEC-GENERAL OF PROVISIONAL OFFICE FOR MASS ORGANIZATIONAL AFFAIRS (POMOA). LATTER MAY BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN GETTING HELP IN FORMING A CP IN ETHIOPIA. ADDRESSEES CAN JUDGE FROM LIST RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER. MOST IMPORTANT FOREIGN AFFAIRS INDIVIDUAL IS, OF COURSE, PMAC STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER MAJ BERHANU BAYEH WHO SEEMS TO BE STAYING HOME THIS TIME.

3. EMBASSY ADDIS WILL BE LOOKING FORWARD TO MORE OF USINT'S UNUSUALLY FINE COVERAGE AND ANALYSIS OF THE HORN AS SEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM HAVANA.
MATHERON

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE.
NOTE BY OC/T: TELEGRAM DELAYED IN TRANSMISSION.

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Message Attributes

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